

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-18 for obviousness-type double patenting citing applicant's U.S. Patent No. 6,626,727. Application transgresses the Examiner's rejection. The Examiner has observed that the claims are not identical but that the claims recite most of the elements of the patented claims except for the features of the magnetizable body. The '727 patent, however, discloses a connecting arm having a first end and a second end, and an axis of elongation. There is no suggestion of a construction member having a second portion and a multiplicity of connecting arms extending radially from the hub portion where the second portion is integral with the hub portion; the second portion does not contain a permanent magnet. The first ends of Applicant's multiplicity of construction members contain a permanent magnet. Applicant submits that the structure of the connecting member in the '727 patent consists of two ends with a magnet in each end and does not suggest a multiplicity of connecting arms extending from a hub where the construction member of the instant application has a multiplicity of connecting arms extending radially from a hub with a permanent magnet adjacent the first ends only. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw his double patenting rejection of Claims 1-18.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dreiding (U.S. Patent No. 4,020,566). Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to provide that the magnet coupling with the magnetizable body is omnidirectional. Dreiding teaches away from omnidirectional coupling. The connecting arms in Dreiding can only couple co-axially (Col. 3, lines 60-63). The coupling connection in Dreiding requires that the connector arms couple co-axially; this is shown in Figs. 16 and 17 of Dreiding and described at Col. 7, line 62 through Col. 8, line 13. Applicant therefore submits that amended Claims 1 and 11 distinguish over Dreiding and are allowable. Likewise, Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14-16 and 18 which are dependent claims are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow said claims.

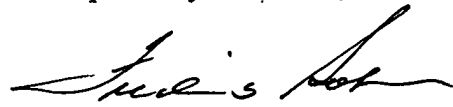
The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 8, 13 and 17 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Dreiding (U.S. Patent No. 4,020,566) and has rejected Claims 5 and

10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Dreiding (U.S. Patent No. 4,020,566) in view of Dreiding (U.S. Patent No. 4,030,209).

In regard to Claims 3, 8, 13 and 17, the Examiner indicated that Dreiding '566 teaches in Figs. 1, 16 and 17 most of the elements of the claimed invention. However, Dreiding teaches away from omnidirectional coupling to a magnetizable body. For the reasons stated above, the '566 teaches co-axial coupling; Dreiding would not work for omnidirectional coupling. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to provide for omnidirectional coupling and thus dependent Claims 3, 8, 13 and 17, it is submitted, are allowable.

In regard to the Examiner's rejection of Claims 5 and 10 as being obvious over the '566 patent in view of the '209 patent, the '566 patent teaches co-axial coupling and would not work for omnidirectional coupling to a magnetizable body. The spheres C, D, E, and F of the '209 patent are used for identification and not for coupling (Col. 10, lines 40-52). There is no suggestion in the '209 patent that the spheres are to be used for the purpose of permitting omnidirectional coupling of the connection arms. The '566 patent teaches away from omnidirectional coupling and requires co-axial coupling. Thus, Application submits that Claims 5 and 10 are allowable since they depend from amended Claim 1 and therefore requests the Examiner to allow said claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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